

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: THE CORTES A DEBATE ON WHO GETS WHAT

1. THE CORTES YESTERDAY (JUNE 14) GOT IT S FIRST BAPTISM
IN DEMOCRATIC DISAGREEMENT, WITH A DEBATE ON THE QUESTION
OF THE MINIMUM SIZE FOR OFFICIALLY RECONGINIZED PARLIAMENTARY
GROUPINGS, A MATTER THAT MAY SEEM PROCEDURAL
BUT REALLY HAS TO DO WITH THE STUFF OF POLITICS. IN
BRIEF, THE CORTES DECIDED ON A 15 SEAT MINUMUM IN THE
LOWER HOUSE, A PSOE PROPOSAL SUPPORTED BY THE UCD, AND
A 10 SEAT MINIMUM FOR THE SENATE WHICH REPRESENTED A
COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE PSOE PROPOSAL FOR A 15 SEAT MINIMUM
AND THE VIEW OF A NUMBER OF INDEPENDENTS THAT SOMETHING
LESS THAN 10 WOULD BE BEST. BECAUSE OF THE COMPROMISE
THE SENATE DEBATE WAS NOT PARTICULARLY CONTENTIOUS.

2. SUAREZ AND GONZLEZ, FOR MOSTELY SHARED REAOSNS, AGREED
ON THE FIFTEEN SEAT LINE, BUT THE PSOE TOOK MOST OF THE HEAT.
WITH SANTIAGO CARRILLO EVEN CLAIMING THE PSOE HAD BECOME
A QTE SUBSIDIARY UNQTE OF THE GOVT. WE KNOW
THE FIFTEEN SEAT LINE WAS IN FACT THE PSOE'S IDEA). MINIMUMS
ARE COMMON IN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEMS BUT THE
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NUMBERS AND THE RIGHTS THAT ACCRUE THERETO VARY. THE
WHO GETS WHAT OF THIS ISSUE HAS TO DO WITH THE RIGHTS OF
REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEE AND THE RIGHT TO SPEAK
UNDER VARIOUS PARLIAMENTARY SITUATIONS. THE PSOE AND
UCD ARGUED ON GROUNDS OF PARLIAMENTARY EFFECTIVENESS
AND MAJORITY RIGHTS. THE REST INCLUDING THE ALIANZA
POPULAR AND THE COMMUNISTS (BOTH OF WHICH ARE ABOVE THE

MINIMUM) ARGUED FOR RESPECT FOR TIGHTE OF MINORITIES.

3. IN FACT THE MAJOR PARTIES ALSO SAW IT AS A DETERRENT TO ANY FUTURE SPLINTERING OF THEIR OWN GROUPS AND TO PREVENT THE COMMUNISTS FROM HAVING TWO GROUPS BY UTILIZING THE FICTION OF A NATIONAL PARTY (11 SEATS) AND A CATALAN PARTY (9 SEATS). THE PSOE ALSO WANTED TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE SPLINER PSP DEPUTIES (6 SEATS) TO ABANDON TIerno GALVAN AND JOIN THE PSOE. THE MODERATE REGIONAL GROUPS (BASQUE PNV AND THE PUJOL LED CATALANS) FALL BELOW THE LINE AND ARE UNHAPPY, BUT THEY MAY JOIN TOGETHER, WHICH WITH 23 SEATS WOULD MAKE THEM THE THIRD LARGEST BLOC, AND THE PSOE HAS THROWN THEM AN OLIVE BRANCH BY SUPPORTING THE NOTION THAT MAJOR REGIONAL PARTIES SHOULD HAVE REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES. IN ALLL THIS PSOE HAS GOTTEN A BIT OF MUD ON ITS FACE, BUT THE LONGTERM PRACTICAL ADVANTAGES SHOULD OUTWEIGHT THE SHORT TERM LOSS.STABLER

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Message Attributes

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